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June 21, 1990

BY TELECOPIER - CONFIRMATION BY AIR MAIL

Mr. John H. Bass
Reddie & Grose
16 Theobalds Road
London WC1X 8PL
ENGLAND

Re: Taiwanese Application No. 78106087
Your File: 30588
Our File: PM-1315 (Taiwan)

Dear John:

Thank you for your fax of today, regarding this application and enclosing the official action.

As in case PM-1322, you correctly point out the distinguishing features of the claims, including the use of a ceramic sleeve and the transfer of heat by radiation and convection. And again, the reference, as a method, neither shows nor suggests those features, which are described in the specification. In particular, it was necessary to develop a ceramic sleeve that was sufficiently strong and yet sufficiently lightweight and porous, as described at pages 10 and 11.

The issue of allowing air to reach the heat source but not the flavor bed is not a factor here except in the dependent claims.

With regard to the claim 2 feature (in this case and in PM-1322), the provision of an annular space around the heat source allows more air to reach the heat source, aiding ignition and combustion.

I doubt that any experiments could be run in this case because the ceramic sleeve embodiment was discontinued early in the development program for this project.

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TO Mr. John H. Bass June 21, 1990

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With respect to prosecution in the United States, the only amendment required to secure allowance in the United States was the addition of the word "direct" in claim 1, at line 19, after "in".

Please let me know if you need anything further.

Very truly yours,

JHI:bas

Jeffrey H. Ingerman

cc: Ms. Beverly A. Monroe
[By Telecopier - Confirmation By Mail]

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